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No meeting in January  
Next meeting in February refer club website

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## AX PREFIX ON AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL DAY



The Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) automatically allows all radio amateurs to substitute their normal VK callsign prefix with the letters AX, every Australia Day.

Our national day this year falls on Friday 26th of January.

This gives radio amateurs the chance to be part of the commemoration the First Fleet's arrival in 1788 at Sydney Cove and the establishment of a European settlement at Port Jackson, with the raising of the British flag by Governor Arthur Phillip.

On Australia Day many celebrate our country and culture. This includes the granting of awards, honours and the welcoming to citizenship of many immigrants. National flags will be flown and the celebrations include fireworks displays.

The AX prefix is popular among prefix hunters and others.

The use of a special QSL card is encouraged by the Wireless Institute of Australia.

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## NEWS BITS

### ACMA FIVE YEAR SPECTRUM OUTLOOK

The Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) in its forward planning has a Five Year Outlook mapping out the spectrum priorities. It gives all stakeholders, including the Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA), an opportunity to input into the ACMA spectrum management work program. The WIA consulted the entire Amateur Radio community in five consultations in 2017. The WIA Spectrum Strategy Committee is assisted greatly by the survey results to produce an evidence-based view that represents the Amateur Community in Australia. In summary, the WIA's input to the ACMA Five Year Outlook will include:

- Seeking harmonisation and extension of 1.8 - 2.0 MHz, and the 3.8 - 4.0 MHz bands
- New secondary allocation at 5.3 MHz that is already in many countries
- Primary allocation in the 50-52 MHz band following the digitisation of television
- Secondary allocation in the 70 MHz band
- Allocation at 803-804 MHz for LIPD class licence for STEM educational programs
- Seeking retention of amateur access to 3.575 - 3.600 GHz outside of the specific geographic areas where future licensed services are deployed.

On next week's VK1WIA broadcast there will be a recap of the WIA Licence Conditions Determination (LCD) submission following its three consultation surveys in June 2017. The WIA will submit both the ACMA Five Year Outlook the LCD submission soon. ~WIA

### THE IARU WATCHES WPT DEVELOPMENTS

Widespread interest continues in Wireless Power Transfer (WPT) technology, reflecting the considerable concern about its potential to cause radio frequency interference. Studies continue ahead of the World Radiocommunications Conference 2019 with its Agenda item 9.1.6 - Wireless Power Transmission (WPT) for electric vehicles. WPT applications are expanding to mobile and portable devices, home appliances and office equipment. The automotive industry looks to it for electric vehicle applications in the near future. Power levels range from milliwatts to hundreds of kilowatts and typical transmission ranges are up about 30 centimetres. Radio users are concerned that while the intended distance can be small, it is inevitable that some energy will be coupled into other conductors acting as unintended antennas. This may cause harmful interference to incumbent services through the radiation of harmonics. WPT is recognised as having potential advantages but must develop in such a way that prevents harmful interference to incumbent services in the frequency band or bands to be considered. Protection of incumbent in-band radiocommunication services as well as adjacent and harmonically related bands from spurious and out-of-band emissions must also be ensured. ~WIA

### ACMA ENABLES INTELLIGENT TRANSPORT SYSTEMS

ACMA have introduced the Radiocommunications (Intelligent Transport Systems) Class Licence 2017 to facilitate and regulate the vehicle-to-vehicle, vehicle-to-person or vehicle-to-infrastructure communications in autonomous vehicles and other technology assisted transport innovations.

ITS are expected to make roads smarter, safer and cleaner through the use of communications technologies,' said ACMA acting Chair, James Cameron.

'The new Class Licence will facilitate the rollout of the latest transportation communications technology, putting Australia on par with other nations adopting ITS.'

Allocations in the 5.9GHz band are consistent with other major automotive markets, reducing technical and economical barriers to engineering and manufacturing ITS technologies for Australia.

~WIA

### JOHN MOYLE MEMORIAL FIELD DAY 2018

John Moyle Memorial Field Day will be held over the weekend of the 17th-18<sup>th</sup> March 2018 and will run from UTC 0100 on the Saturday until 0059 on the Sunday.

~WIA

### THE FUTURE OF AMATEUR RADIO UPDATE

A key part of how we operate is the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) Licence Conditions Determinations (LCD), which is to be reviewed later this year. The ACMA is expected to issue a discussion paper and make a public call for submissions. The WIA Board has received some inquiries about its LCD submission following the three consultation surveys in June 2017.

There were more than 1100 respondents from the Amateur Radio community. The first survey showed that future Amateur Radio licencing must not be less than what is in the current apparatus licencing.

Respondents wanted to see reduced regulation and greater self-determination. In relation to permitted power levels - it must be reviewed in a sensible, pragmatic way for all licence levels taking into account personal safety and electromagnetic emissions.

The second survey shows the need for digital models for Foundation licensees and access to more bands for Foundation licensees.

Support the Standard Licence included access to more bands and higher power. For advanced licences harmonisation in 160 m and 80 m, new allocation at 5.3 MHz, primary status in 50-52 MHz, allocation at 5.3 MHz, primary status in 50-52 MHz, access to 70-70.5 MHz and the 918-925 MHz Industrial Scientific and Medical ISM band. There was overwhelming support for a relaxation of permitted bandwidths and an increase in power to 1000 watts for the Advanced Licence.

There was also very strong support for the balance or relativity between the three grades of licences.

The third survey sought to address outstanding issues with licence conditions. The first question asked about clarifying the interference, station identification, retransmission and operation of repeaters.

During the process the WIA has been guided by the ACMA, which is an evidence-based organisation, ahead of its LCD review this year.

The WIA will be pushing to expedite the implementation of the findings out of the ACMA review.

~WIA

### THE FT8 DIGITAL MODE USED BY MANY

The FT8 keyboard-to-keyboard text mode has taken over from the weak signal JT65, which had been previously favored.

The WIA Statistician Marc Hillman VK3OHM in analysing the award system data says about 20 per cent of all QSOs in 2017 were in the FT8 mode. The WIA does not issue DXCC on the basis of FT8 mode alone. QSO using FT8 mode would contribute to the "Digital" mode section. However, Marc VK3OHM finds there are 7 people who have achieved 100+ DXCC entities using the FT8 mode only.

Michael Wells G7VJR has also done an analysis of the uploads to the online Amateur Radio contacts to Club Log in 2017. He says it was the year when digital modes changed forever with the advent of FT8. It has breathed life and enthusiasm into DXing for a whole new audience.

It is safe to say that the adoption of FT8 has been phenomenally fast.

~WIA

A long standing companion to Mick VK3CH amateur radio activities passed away on 18<sup>th</sup> January.

Emma, my dog of many years, previously the pet of my father, Ian was well known from her appearances on Melbourne's amateur television repeater.

BBQ days were of course her favourite pastime.

Emma was a beloved pet of both Janice & Michelle. She will be missed.

*emma June 2013*



President, VK2VU, Gary  
Vice President, VK3CM, Brenton  
Secretary, VK2FKLR, Kathleen  
Treasurer, Amy



## NEVARC CLUB PROFILE

### History

The North East Victoria Amateur Radio Club (NEVARC) formed in 2014.  
As of the 7th August 2014, Incorporated, Registered Incorporation number A0061589C.  
NEVARC is an affiliated club of the Wireless Institute of Australia.



### Meetings

Meetings details are on the club website, check for latest scheduled details.  
Meetings held at the Belviour Guides Hall, Silva Drive West Wodonga.

### Benefits

To provide the opportunity for Amateur Radio Operators and Short Wave Listeners to enhance their hobby through interaction with other Amateur Radio Operators and Short Wave Listeners. Free technology and related presentations, sponsored construction activities, discounted (and sometimes free) equipment, network of likeminded radio and electronics enthusiasts. Excellent club facilities and environment, ample car parking.

**Website:** [www.nevarc.net.au](http://www.nevarc.net.au)

**Postal:** NEVARC Secretary  
PO Box 69  
Wahgunyah Vic 3683

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All editors' comments and other opinions in submitted articles may not always represent the opinions of the committee or the members of NEVARC, but published in spirit, to promote interest and active discussion on club activities and the promotion of Amateur Radio. Contributions to NEVARC News are always welcome from members.

Email attachments of Word™, Plain Text, Excel™, PDF™ and JPG are all acceptable.

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While we strive to be accurate, no responsibility taken for errors, omissions, or other perceived deficiencies, in respect of information contained in technical or other articles.

Any dates, times and locations given for upcoming events please check with a reliable source closer to the event.

This is particularly true for pre-planned outdoor activities affected by adverse weather etc.

The club website [www.nevarc.net.au](http://www.nevarc.net.au) has current information on planned events and scheduled meeting dates.

You can get the WIA News sent to your inbox each week by simply clicking a link and entering your email address found at [www.wia.org.au](http://www.wia.org.au) The links for either text email or MP3 voice files are there as well as Podcasts and Twitter. This WIA service is FREE.